

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0241

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJ: AZORES BASE TALKS: AZOREAN VIEW

REF: LISBON 4717

1. MOTA AMARAL TOLD ME ON JUNE 28 THAT REIS LEITE DID NOT ATTEND THE JUNE 17 MEETING ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TWO REASONS: AZOREANS HAD SOME FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS THEY NEEDED CLARIFIED BY THE GOP FIRST, AND THEY WERE TOLD THAT NOTHING IMPORTANT WOULD BE DISCUSSED. THE AZOREANS WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT DURING MARIO SOARES VISIT TO WASHINGTON THE USG SAID THAT IN VIEW OF ALL THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN PORTUGAL IT COULD NOT EXPECT ANYTHING FOR A NEW LAJES AGREEMENT. WHEN THEY RAISED THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH THE GOP THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOLD TO SUBMIT THEIR QUESTIONS IN WRITING THROUGH THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC; THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY. MOTA AMARAL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD PROTESTED TO THE GOP THAT LAJES WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE SOARES VISIT IN THE ABSENSE OF AN AZOREAN REPRESENTATIVE. HE NOTED THAT AT THE JUNE 17 MEETING AMB. CARLUCCI HAD REQUESTED AZOREAN PRIORITIES AND ESTIMATES OF THE COSTS OF THE PROJECTS AND SAID THAT SETTING PRIORITIES WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AID COULD ASSIST IN ELABORATING PROJECTS IF
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NECESSARY.

2. AFTER ITS JUNE 27 MEETING THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT STATED IT DECIDED TO FORMALLY REQUEST THAT LAJES BASE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN SOON.

3. COMMENT: THE PROJECTS THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WANTS

FINANCED FROM THE LAJES NEGOTIATIONS ARE INCLUDED IN ITS MEDIUM TERM PLAN WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (AID HAS COPIES OF THE PLAN). THE PLAN, WHICH SPECIFICALLY ASSUMES A LARGE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, CALLS FOR SPENDING OVER 14 MILLION CONTOS (ABOUT 370 MILLION DOLLARS) THROUGH 1980, THE YEAR THE AZOREANS WANT A NEW AGREEMENT TO EXPIRE. CONSIDERING THE WORK ALREADY DONE INTO THE PLAN AND THE SIGNS THAT IT IS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN PRIORITIES ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. COST ESTIMATES IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS, HOWEVER, MAY TAKE A LITTLE LONGER.

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